

- (a) Permits.
- (b) Hardship exemptions.
- (c) Notice and review.

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- (d) Permit and exemption policy.
- (e) Alaska natives.
- (f) Pre-Act endangered species parts exemption; application and certification; regulation; validity of sales contract; separability; renewal of exemption; expiration of renewal certification.
- (g) Burden of proof.
- (h) Certain antique articles; importation; port designation; application for return of articles.
- (i) Noncommercial transshipments.
- (j) Experimental populations.
- 1540. Penalties and enforcement.
  - (a) Civil penalties.
  - (b) Criminal violations.
  - (c) District court jurisdiction.
  - (d) Rewards and incidental expenses.
  - (e) Enforcement.
  - (f) Regulations.
  - (g) Citizen suits.
  - (h) Coordination with other laws.
- 1541. Endangered plants.
- 1542. Authorization of appropriations.
  - (a) In general.
  - (b) Exemptions.
  - (c) Convention implementation.
- 1543. Construction with Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.
- 1544. Annual cost analysis by Fish and Wildlife Service.

### § 1531. Congressional findings and declaration of purposes and policy

#### (a) Findings

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation;

(2) other species of fish, wildlife, and plants have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction;

(3) these species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people;

(4) the United States has pledged itself as a sovereign state in the international community to conserve to the extent practicable the various species of fish or wildlife and plants facing extinction, pursuant to—

(A) migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico;

(B) the Migratory and Endangered Bird Treaty with Japan;

(C) the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere;

(D) the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries;

(E) the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean;

(F) the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and

(G) other international agreements; and

(5) encouraging the States and other interested parties, through Federal financial assistance and a system of incentives, to develop

and maintain conservation programs which meet national and international standards is a key to meeting the Nation's international commitments and to better safeguarding, for the benefit of all citizens, the Nation's heritage in fish, wildlife, and plants.

#### (b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

#### (c) Policy

(1) It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered species and threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

(2) It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that Federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species.

(Pub. L. 93-205, § 2, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 96-159, § 1, Dec. 28, 1979, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, § 9(a), Oct. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1426; Pub. L. 100-478, title I, § 1013(a), Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2315.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c)(1), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 81 Stat. 884, as amended, known as the “Endangered Species Act of 1973”, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

#### AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (a)(4)(G). Pub. L. 100-478 substituted “; and” for period at end.

1982—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 97-304 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1979—Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 96-159 substituted “wildlife, and plants” for “wildlife”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 16 of Pub. L. 93-205 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 460k-1, 460l-9, 668dd, 715l, 715s, 1362, 1371, 1372, and 1402 of this title and section 136 of Title 7, Agriculture, repealing sections 668aa to 668cc-6 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] shall take effect on the date of its enactment [Dec. 28, 1973].”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 97-304 provided: “That this Act [amending this section and sections 1532, 1533, 1535, 1536, 1537a, 1538, 1539, 1540, and 1542 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1533, 1537a, and 1539 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-632, § 1, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3751, provided: “That this Act [amending sections 1532 to 1536, 1538 to 1540, and 1542 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978’.”